

REMARKS

Claims 4,6,11-21,23 and 25-36 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3,5,7-10,22 and 24 are canceled and claims 4,6,11,12,15-21 and 23 are amended. It is noted that Applicant has amended and cancelled the above-identified claims solely to advance prosecution of the instant application and to obtain allowance on allowable claims at the earliest possible date. Accordingly, no admission may be inferred from the amendments of claims herein. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the originally filed claims in the future.

In the office action, the examiner noted that applicant's information disclosure statement filed November 13, 2002 included certain references that were not in the English language and did not include a concise explanation of the relevance of those references. With this response, applicant has filed a supplemental information disclosure statement including an English abstract for each of the references identified by the examiner. This information disclosure statement also includes additional references that applicant recently became aware of.

In the office action, the examiner observed that reference sign 594 was included in figure 21 but was not mentioned in the specification. With this response, applicant has submitted formal drawings for the instant application. In these drawings reference sign 594 in figure 21 has been replaced with reference sign 592.

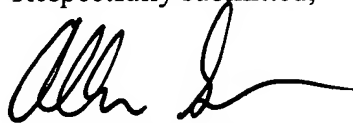
Claims 4, 6, 11, 17-21 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With this response, applicant has amended each of the above-identified claims to include all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

With this response, Applicant has amended claims 12 and 15-16 so as to depend from claim 11. In light of these amendments, claims 12-16 now depend from independent claim 11 and recite additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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